IN THE CLAIMS

1 (Previously Presented). A method comprising:

obtaining, on a first wireless device, a contact list of seeond wireless devices with whieh the first wireless device has communicated in the past, including a first contact in-range from the first wireless device and a second contact being out-of-range from the first wireless device;

automatically establishing a communication route between the first wireless device and the first eontact; and

automatically establishing a communication route from the first wireless device to a second contact through the first contact.

2 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 1 wherein obtaining the contact list includes acquiring information from a list of addressees on the first wireless device.

3 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 1 including automatically exchanging lists of contacts with in-range second wireless devices, comparing the lists of contacts, and identifying common contacts in said lists.

4 (Original). The method of claim 3 including exchanging lists of common contacts between two devices with other in-range devices.

5 (Original). The method of claim 1 including storing information sufficient to establish a communication route from said device to said second contact.

6 (Original). The method of claim 1 including storing information related to said first contact.

7 (Original). The method of claim 6 including storing information about whether said second contact is active.

8 (Original). The method of claim 7 including sharing information with other in-range devices about whether said first contact is active.

9 (Original). The method of claim 1 including periodically updating information about in-range devices.

10 (Original). The method of claim 1 including storing an alternative communication route to said second contact.

11 (Previously Presented). An article comprising a computer readable medium storing instructions that, if executed, enable a processor-based first wireless device to:

obtain a contact list of wireless devices which the first wireless device has communicated in the past, including a first contact in-range from the first wireless device and a second contact being out-of-range from the first wireless device;

automatically establish a communication route from the first wireless device to a first contact; and

automatically establish a communication route from the first wireless device to a second contact through the first contact.

12 (Previously Presented). The article of claim 11 further storing instructions that enable the first wireless device to acquire information from a list of addressees on a device.

13 (Previously Presented). The article of claim 11 further storing instructions that enable the first wireless device to automatically exchange lists of contacts with in-range devices, compare the lists of contacts, and identify common contacts in said lists.

14 (Previously Presented). The article of claim 13 further storing instructions that enable the first wireless device to exchange lists of common contacts between two devices with other in-range devices.

15 (Previously Presented). The article of claim 11 further storing instructions that enable the first wireless device to store information sufficient to establish a communication route from said device to said second contact.

16 (Previously Presented). The article of claim 11 further storing instructions that enable the first wireless device to store information related to said first contact.

17 (Previously Presented). The article of claim 11 further storing instructions that enable the first wireless device to store information about whether said second contact is active.

18 (Previously Presented). The article of claim 17 further storing instructions that enable the first wireless device to share information with other in-range devices about whether said first contact is active.

19 (Previously Presented). The article of claim 11 further storing instructions that enable the first wireless device to periodically update information about in-range devices.

20 (Previously Presented). The article of claim 11 further storing instructions that enable the first wireless device to store an alternative communication route to said second contact.

21 (Previously Presented). A system comprising:

a processor;

a storage coupled to said processor storing instructions that enable the processor to:

obtain a contact list of contacts that the system has communicated with before, including a first contact in-range from the device and a second contact being out-of-range from the device;

automatically establish a communication route from the device to a first contact; and

automatically establish a communication route from the device to a second contact through the first contact.

22 (Original). The system of claim 21 wherein said storage stores instructions that enable the processor to acquire information from a list of addressees on a device.

23 (Original). The system of claim 21 wherein said storage stores instructions that enable the processor to automatically exchange of lists of contacts with in-range devices, compare the lists of contacts, and identify common contacts in said lists.

24 (Original). The system of claim 23 wherein said storage stores instructions that enable the processor to exchange lists of common contacts between two devices with other in-range devices.

25 (Original). The system of claim 21 wherein said storage stores instructions that enable the processor to store information sufficient to establish a communication route from said device to said second contact.

26 (Original). The system of claim 21 wherein said storage stores instructions that enable the processor to store information related to said first contact.

27 (Original). The system of claim 21 wherein said storage stores instructions that enable the processor to store information about whether said second contact is active.

28 (Original). The system of claim 27 wherein said storage stores instructions that enable the processor to share information with other in-range devices about whether said first contact is active.

29 (Original). The system of claim 21 wherein said storage stores instructions that enable the processor to periodically update information about in-range devices.

30 (Original). The system of claim 21 wherein said storage stores instructions that enable the processor to store an alternative communication route to said second contact.